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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 005177

SIPDIS

USVIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SAVOR PRESIDENT PAVLETIC SAYS NO PEACE WITHOUT  
U.S. ASSISTANCE

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PAGE 02 ZAGREB 05177 01 OF 02 181254Z  
1.SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 14 AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH PAID A  
COURTESY CALL ON THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES VLATKO PAVLETIC. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON  
THE BALKANS PEACE AGREEMENT AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF  
IMPLEMENTATION. PAVLETIC SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT OFFERS  
THE BASIS FOR ALL THREE ETHNIC GROUPS TO RESOLVE THEIR  
DIFFERENCES. BECAUSE THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO PEACE  
WITHOUT THE U.S. INITIATIVE, PAVLETIC STRESSED THAT IT IS  
VITAL FOR CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTATION.  
THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT THERE IS MUCH UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS, INCLUDING CREATING A CIVIL SOCIETY, THE RETURN  
OF A MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY, AND A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM  
OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED  
THAT PEACE WILL NOT BE REAL AND HEALING CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL  
A FINAL ACCOUNTING IS DONE AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR  
CRIMES -- ON ALL SIDES -- HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.  
END SUMMARY.

2.ON DECEMBER 14 AMBASSADOR GALBRAITH PAID A COURTESY  
CALL ON THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
VLATKO PAVLETIC (CROATIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION -- HDZ).  
PAVLETIC FOCUSED HIS COMMENTS ON THE SIGNING OF THE  
BALKANS PEACE AGREEMENT IN PARIS AND NOTED THAT, AS  
DIFFICULT AS THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS, IMPLEMENTATION  
WILL BE HARDER. HE SAID THAT THE CRUEL WAR OF THE LAST  
FIVE YEARS HAS BROUGHT A PEACE THAT THAT IS ALMOST AS  
CRUEL TO ITS VICTIMS. HE LAMENTED THAT WHILE THE VIOLENCE  
HAS ENDED, HATRED AND INTOLERANCE PERSIST. A DIFFICULT  
JOB LIES AHEAD TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR CROATS, SERBS,  
AND MUSLIMS TO LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN. HE NOTED, HOWEVER,  
THAT FINDING A FORMULA TO BUILD TRUST WILL BE MORE

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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 05177 01 OF 02 181254Z  
DIFFICULT THAN FINDING THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO REBUILD  
VUKOVAR.

3.PAVLETIC ADDED THAT THE PEACE AGREEMENT OFFERS THE  
BASIS FOR ALL THREE ETHNIC GROUPS TO RESOLVE THEIR  
DIFFERENCES. HOWEVER, THE ENTIRE FORMULA COULD PROVE  
UNWORKABLE IF ONE PARTY VIOLATES IT. HE SAID THIS WAS A  
SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO LEADERS IN SECTOR EAST WHO HAVE  
PUBLICLY INTERPRETED THE AGREEMENT DIFFERENTLY THAN THE  
GOC (NOTE: LEADERS IN EASTERN SLAVONIA HAVE SAID THAT  
CROATIAN DISPLACED PERSONS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO RETURN  
WHEN SERBS BEGIN TO COME BACK TO FORMER SECTORS NORTH AND  
SOUTH). PAVLETIC WARNED THAT IF SUCH ATTITUDES PERSIST,  
THE GOVERNMENT AND HDZ WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN  
CONTINUED PUBLIC OR PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE  
AGREEMENT. (PAVLETIC ALSO UNDERLINED THAT THE OPPOSITION  
PARTIES' WERE SEEKING AN IDEAL SOLUTION AND SAID THAT ONLY  
THE HDZ, WITH A REALISTIC VIEW OF THE PROBLEM AT HAND,  
CARRIED THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE AGREEMENT.) EVEN WITHOUT  
THE UNHELPFUL STANCE OF SOME EASTERN SLAVONIAN LEADERS,  
IMPLEMENTATION WILL NOT BE EASY OR SWIFT. THERE COULD  
HAVE BEEN NO PEACE WITHOUT THE U.S. INITIATIVE AND BECAUSE  
OF ITS INFLUENCE, PAVLETIC STRESSED, IT IS VITAL FOR  
CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTATION. PAVLETIC  
SAID IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO REINTRODUCE LAW AND ORDER,  
SINCE FORMER INSTITUTIONS HAVE VANISHED WITH THE MASS  
MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND LOSS OF PROPERTY.

4.THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT THERE IS MUCH UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT,

CREATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY, THE RETURN OF MULTI-ETHNIC  
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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 05177 01 OF 02 181254Z  
SOCIETY, AND A RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THOSE WHO HAVE  
DISAPPEARED. HE STRESSED THAT PEACE WILL NOT BE REAL AND  
HEALING CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL A FINAL ACCOUNTING IS DONE AND  
THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR CRIMES -- ON ALL SIDES -- HAVE  
BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED  
PAVLETIC  
FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE DAYTON AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT  
WHILE IT DID NOT GIVE CROATIA EVERYTHING IT WANTED,  
CROATIA MET MORE OF ITS GOALS THAN THE OTHER PARTIES IN  
THE CONFLICT. THE AGREEMENT GUARANTEES CROATIA'S  
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WITHIN ITS INTERNATIONALLY  
RECOGNIZED BORDERS AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BOSANSKA  
POSAVINA, ALMOST ALL BOSNIAN CROATS LIVE IN THE  
FEDERATION. HE NOTED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE AN  
AGREEMENT THAT FULLY SATISFIES ONE SIDE, THAT PEACE  
REQUIRES COMPROMISES. EVEN THOUGH THE CROATS OF BOSANSKA  
POSAVINA ARE NOT IN THE FEDERATION, THEY STILL HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO RETURN, RECOVER PROPERTY, AND VOTE. BY VOTING  
THEY COULD CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE SERB ENTITY.

15. SARAJEVO MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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PAGE 01 ZAGREB 05177 02 OF 02 181254Z  
ACTION EUR-01  
  
INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 OASY-00 SRPP-00 FBIE-00  
H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00  
M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-00  
PRS-01 P-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00  
USIE-00 PMB-00 PRMC-01 DRL-09 G-00 /020W  
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FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373  
INFO USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECPOLAD//  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK  
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
DIA WASHDC  
NATO EU COLLECTIVE  
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//POLAD//

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PAGE 02  
FINN

ZAGREB 05177 02 OF 02 181254Z

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